

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 12, 2014
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Nelson Almeida, Gary Sagar, Michael Brady,
Robert McLintock, David Parker

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Almeida opened the meeting at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chairman.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF OUR NEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
SHAWN E. CADIME

Chairman Almeida introduced and welcomed Mr. Cadime to Seekonk.

Mr. Cadime thanked Board members for their faith in him. He said it has been a great honor. The Town has a great staff, a great finance team and the public safety department is outstanding. He is excited to be here.

LICENSE HEARING

Approve or Deny Request from Rockwell Amusements Promotion, Inc. to hold a Carnival
April 30, 2014 through May 4, 2014 on the grounds of 800 Fall River Avenue (former
Showcase Cinema)

Mr. Cadime advised that documents are in order.

Mr. Harold Fera of Rockwell Amusements advised this is an annual activity that has been done for several years to benefit the American Legion District 9. He had an insurance certificate, a letter from the American Legion and a letter from Showcase Cinema giving permission to use the property. A police detail will be hired.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the request from Rockwell Amusements Promotion, Inc. to hold a carnival from April 30, 2014 to May 4, 2014 on the grounds of the former Seekonk Cinema at 800 Fall River Avenue.

Approve or Deny an Amendment to the Rules and Regulations for the Seekonk Speedway

Mr. Sagar recused himself.

Mr. Cadime indicated that the Speedway is looking to reduce the number of police officers from ten to nine, except during special events.

Police Chief Craig Mace indicated he concurred.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McLintock, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Amendment to the Rules and Regulations for the Seekonk Speedway.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion on Maintenance of Private Ways with Attorney Eric Brainsky

Chairman Almeida recused himself.

Mr. Sagar advised that the Board had received a legal opinion from town counsel, which was provided to Atty. Brainsky.

Atty. Brainsky stated that the opinion is consistent with his conversation with town counsel. He agreed with town counsel in terms of non-mandatory vs. mandatory. The argument he made at the previous meeting was that Town Meeting vote authorized the Board to allow public funds to be used to plow private roadways. He respectfully disagreed with town counsel regarding the safety concerns of a previous town administrator and public safety officials. He did feel that ultimately it is the Board's discretion.

He spoke to Mr. Lamoureux who indicated one of his concerns is that plows might get damaged. He understands from speaking to his client that raised areas have asphalt aprons.

Mr. Sagar felt that Mr. Lamoureux should be included in discussions when he returns from sick leave.

Mr. McLintock noted that all taxpayers should have the same services.

Mr. Brady felt there has to be a policy with input from DPW and the Town Administrator and the directive from Town Meeting.

Mr. Parker noted that Town Meeting authorized the Board to make the decision. He agreed there has to be more information.

March 12, 2014

-3-

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To indefinitely table further discussion on maintenance of private ways with Atty. Brainsky.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Abstained.

Mr. Cadime will work with Mr. Lamoureux and the chiefs.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on By-Law, Category 2B, Capital Improvement Committee

Mr. Sagar said that he asked this be included on the agenda. He has always supported a strong capital plan. He initiated the 25% increase in the current budget for capital items. He was concerned that the by-law language is not how the process works. He would like to remove the six-year term limit and make other changes.

Mr. Brady said this was supposed to be done in conjunction with the Charter that the CIC would work or advise the Town Administrator in the preparation of the capital budget. He did not like the six consecutive years because no other board has that limitation. He also questioned whether it should say that no elected or appointed town official should be on it because it is difficult to find people to serve. He said department heads would get into conflict.

When first proposed, the CIC would work with the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee in developing a five-year capital budget based on needs of each department and rank them according to priority.

A facilities study done a few years ago was out priced. They should use as a needs analysis and completely disregard any monetary figures in the study.

Mr. McLintock said the CIC was caught in the middle of a situation with the previous Town Administrator because she was not attending the meetings and did not bring back any information to the Board. He felt it would be a mistake to do away with this committee. He added that there should be a construction committee that interacts with the CIC.

Mr. Parker indicated he would totally support going to Town Meeting in June to remove the six year term limits.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To table and direct the Town Administrator to review the CIC and compare to the Charter and report back to the Board with recommendations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting

At Mr. McLintock's request, Mr. Bowden explained he had forwarded a document to a Board member, but it never made it on the agenda. The vote at Town Meeting requires an addendum to the contract for the senior center.

Mr. Cadime asked if it could wait for two weeks.

Mr. Bowden advised that the architect has had the engineering company come in and do the survey. This was with the understanding that the Board would vote on this addendum tonight.

Chairman Almeida asked what happened to the document that was intended for the packet.

Mr. Cadime noted that there is a deadline for submissions for the agenda.

Mr. McLintock indicated he misplaced the paperwork.

Mr. Sagar noted that this is an addendum with a firm that has worked for years with the Town.

With Mr. Bowden's explanation, Chairman Almeida agreed to allow it under the 48 hour rule.

Mr. Parker said he would reluctantly support it but he noted that the Board is constantly being accused of putting items under the 48 hour rule.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Amendment #2 of the contract with the Town of Seekonk and Flansburgh Architect in the amount of \$9,500; and, if approved, allow the Chairman to sign.

Mr. Bowden noted that this is the study the Board had requested.

Mr. Bowden suggested the Board and Town Administrator should look further into the CIC, which says a member cannot serve on any other board.

Mr. Sagar stated that Board of Selectmen and School Committee members should be excluded.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime suggested the Board set dates to open and close the warrant for the June 9, 2014 Town Meeting. That had already been done.

Mr. Cadime stated that the date of the lock down drill scheduled for this spring should be kept secret. Board members are invited to oversee the drill. Police Department, School Department and SWAT team will be involved. Board members who want to attend should notify Chief Mace.

There will be a meeting at SRPEDD to discuss regionalization of the 911 dispatch center. Mr. Perry from SRPEDD, representatives from Dighton, Mr. Cadime, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Campbell, Chief Jack, Chief Mace, and representatives from the State 911 department will attend. A grant application has to be submitted by April.

Mr. Cadime advised that he will review Administrative Policy #60 (driving policy). There was a personnel issue which took place prior to his arrival in Seekonk and was addressed. He will work with Mr. Alexander about underwriting coverage, and he will review the policy with Kopelman & Paige.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Sagar advised that there has been action at the site of the new senior center – surveying work, structural and environmental inspections.

Human Service Director Bernadette Huck spoke to him about a possible grant. He told her to contact Mr. Cadime. Also, at one time the town owned a minibus to provide transportation for seniors. Mrs. Huck felt that she could get a vehicle from GATRA but the Town would have to staff it.

Mr. Cadime will reach out to Mrs. Huck.

Mr. Brady suggested Mr. Cadime contact the Rehoboth Town Administrator.

Mr. Cadime said that GATRA and SRTA provide a demand service for doctor's appointments.

March 12, 2014

-6-

Mr. McLintock asked Mr. Cadime to send a letter of appreciation to Jim Viara of Greenwood Avenue, who donated truckloads of products to the carpentry shop at Tri County Vocational School.

Mr. Parker asked why the department head had not called the Town Administrator about the grant.

He announced that absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office. They are available through the mail or residents can vote at Town Hall until noon on April 4, 2014.

He reported on the success of the Seekonk and Rehoboth rabies clinic held on Saturday, March 1st. He noted that Dr. Truesdale provides this service free of charge.

The Save-A-Pet auction is scheduled for February 25, 26, and 27, 2014 at the Hilltop. It will not be televised. People have to attend in order to support the auction.

There was some discussion as to whether the auction could have been held at either the high school or middle school.

Mr. Sagar noted that a major contributor is cutting back because the event is not televised.

Chairman Almeida once again welcomed Mr. Cadime. He has heard positive comments from employees and residents. He noted that Mr. Cadime is very well organized, and his first week in Seekonk was a great success.

At the meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2014, the Historical Commission will have a guest speaker, Christopher Skelly, Director of Local Government Programs from the Mass. Historical Commission.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session to A. hear grievance from AFSCME Council 93, Dispatch, per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), B. for continued discussion on real estate negotiations for senior center per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(6), 442 Taunton Avenue, and C. discussion on purchase of real estate for fire station per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(6); to reconvene to Open Session, if necessary.

Chairman Almeida read a legal opinion from town counsel.re: C.

March 12, 2014

-7-

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Nay.

Prior to the vote, Mr. McLintock felt there wasn't enough information with respect to the purchase of land.

Mr. Cadime clarified that in accordance with Mass. General Laws, it would be detrimental to negotiations if the parcel was identified.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:49 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To sign the contract with engineering firm to perform the Phase 2 study at 442 Taunton Avenue.

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

ADJOURMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary